

## **MARILYN CALL:**

### **Family:**

Marilyn was born in Salt Lake City, Tiller was her maiden name.

Marilyn married Richard Call in 1975 – they were high school sweethearts.

Their first daughter, Ashley, was born in 1976. They found out Ashley was Deaf at age 2, and that she had Autism at age 3.

Their second daughter, Camille, was born in 1978. At 9 months of age they found out she was also Deaf. Camille and her husband, Samuel Garcia, married in 2002. Their first son, Alberto Jordan or “AJ” (named after a deceased Uncle Alberto Garcia), was born in 2005, and they are currently expecting another son in January, 2007, to be named Ashton (named after his Aunt Ashley).

Richard and Marilyn found out about an infant in the Phillippines needing a home in 1985 and adopted their son, Jason. Jason was welcomed to this family in March, 1986, when he was almost one year old. Jason and his Fiancee, Jessica, had their first daughter, Kaya who was born in May, 2005. Their second daughter, Khala, was born in August, 2006.

### **Advocacy/Lobbying:**

In 1979 Marilyn was looking for a preschool for Ashley to attend. Ashley needed a school like Childrens Behavior Therapy Unit (CBTU) at Valley Mental Health but there were no openings. During this time Marilyn met Carmen Pingree of the Pingree School. Marilyn learned a lot about lobbying from Carmen and took it to heart.

In 1980-1981 Marilyn began lobbying efforts supporting the request for more slots for autistic children at CBTU, as well as a group home for autistic people. Both Bills were passed.

She began lobbying in support of programs and funding for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. That year they were able to obtain funding for more staff, and a change in the staffing pattern.

From 1983-1989 Marilyn worked for the Utah Parent Center as a Parent Trainer/Consultant.

In 1989 Marilyn was hired as the first Director of the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities. As Director, she lobbied for all sorts of issues for people with disabilities including funding for Rehabilitation, Special Education, Division of Services

for People with Disabilities, and lobbied in support of the new Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Taylorsville (1991).

In 1992 Marilyn was lured away from her position by the Director of the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Gene Stewart, for the position of Program Director of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs. Under Marilyn's direction, new programs were developed and/or funding was obtained to include: Circle of Friends (for people with multiple disabilities and some degree of hearing loss started under a grant from Salt Lake County); Deaf Connection and a Family and Youth Specialist; funding for Community Education; a Hard of Hearing Specialist; Case Manager and mental health counseling services; supported addition of a wing with additional classroom and office space. In addition, Marilyn lobbied with a task force for the passage of two bills: One requiring sign language interpreters to be certified and one changing the status of American Sign Language so it could be accepted and taught as a foreign language. Marilyn spearheaded the effort for the center to be the first community center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to be named after a Deaf person.

In 2001 Marilyn was appointed Interim Director of the Division of Services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and was hired as the Director in January, 2002.

Marilyn continues to expand programs and services including supporting funding of a second Case Manager position, expansion of Hard of Hearing programs, and helped to obtain funding for positions and office space to establish the satellite office in St. George, Utah.